

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 111231Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0030

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: UNITED PARTY CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

REF: PRETORIA A-121; PRETORIA 2430

1. WITHIN INCREASINGLY FRACTIOUS UNITED PARTY (UP), LATEST CONTROVERSY, WHICH INITIATED BY RESIGNATION UP'S DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION, GEORGE OLIVER, AND CONTROVERSIAL SPEECH OF MYBURGH STREICHER, CAPE LEADER OF UP (REFTEL), CONTINUES UNABATED UP TO EVE OF PINELANDS BY-ELECTION.

2. APPROXIMATELY 20 UP CAPE PENINSULA COUNCIL MEMBERS MET JUNE 9, AGAINST WISHES AND IN ABSENCE OF THEIR CONSERVATIVE CHAIRMAN, MR. TONY HICKMAN, MP. ACCORDING TO PRESS, THEY EXPRESSED ANGER OVER STREICHER SPEECH AND REPORTEDLY MOOTED EARLY CAPE UP CONGRESS TO REPLACE STREICHER AND HIS CONSERVATIVE DEPUTY, JOHN WILEY.

3. SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF, SPEAKING AT PINELANDS ELECTION RALLY IN CAPE TOWN JUNE 10, DENIED HE PLANNED TO STEP DOWN AS UP LEADER. GRAAFF CRITICIZED PRESS AND "MANEUVERING OF CERTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LITTLE GROUPS" WITHIN UP FOR SOWING DISSENSION. TEST OF UP

MEMBER WAS ADHERENCE TO PHILOSOPHY OF UP, HE SAID, AND FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH THIS PHILOSOPHY, "NOW IS THE TIME TO GO." GRAAFF'S CRITICISM VAGUE AND MAY HAVE BEEN AIMED AT BOTH VERLIGTE AND VERKRAMPTE FRINGE ELEMENTS OF UP. HOWEVER, POLICY ASPECTS OF SPEECH CLEARLY GEARED TO VERLIGTE AUDIENCE. GRAAFF SUGGESTED, INTER ALIA, THAT BLACKS BE ALLOWED TO OWN AND OPERATE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES IN AREAS IN WHICH THEY LIVE; BLACK PARTICIPATION IN DEFENSE FORCES; EVENTUAL MERGER, PROVIDED BOTH COMMUNITIES AGREE, OF "RIGHTS AND INTERESTS" OF WHITES AND COLOREDS "WITHIN A SINGLE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY;" AND REVIEW OF NECESSITY FOR IMMORALITY ACT.

4. SPEAKING AT MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION RALLY IN RANDBURG ON SAME NIGHT, JAPIE BASSON, LEADING VERLIGTE MP, ATTACKED UNNAMEED CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS WITHIN UP. ALLUDING TO OLIVER'S RESIGNATION AND STREICHER'S THREAT TO RESIGN, HE SAID "WE CERTAINLY HAVE NO INTENTION OF DROPPING ANY POSITION OR RUNNING AWAY FROM RESPONSIBILITIES.." BASSON, WHO RECENTLY DECLARED HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF UP (REFAIR), REJECTED PARTY UNITY FOR ITS OWN SAKE--THE IDEA OF HOLDING TOGETHER THOSE WHO DO NOT REALLY BELONG TOGETHER. HE STATED PEOPLE SHOULD SUPPORT A PARTY BECAUSE OF ITS PRINCIPLES AND IDEAS, NOT BECUASE THEY WERE BORN INTO PARTY.

6. COMMENT: CONTINUING PROCESS OF RECRIMINATION BETWEEN UP FACTIONS MAKES RECONCILIATION INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND BREAK-UP OF PARTY MORE LIKELY. MEANWHILE UP, WAS RAND DAILY MAIL STATED EDITORIALY JUNE 8, HAS, BY CONCENTRATING ON INTERNAL AND OFTEN PETTY DISPUTES, "CEASED TO PERFORM THE VITAL FUNCTIONS OF AN OPPOSITION."
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